



*Fall
2002*



HOOSIER SAFETY

A Publication of
The Indiana State Emergency Management Agency
and Department of Fire and Building Services

2002 Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Competition

Emergency Responders Demonstrate Their Critically Important Capabilities

At 8 a.m., Friday morning, September 6, 2002, a simulated 911 call was made from the Adam's Mark Hotel to an exercise scenario emergency dispatcher about an injured person. This call was for the first of nine teams competing in the Indiana Governor's Cup Ambulance Competition.

Upon arrival, EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) would find a hotel "guest/good Samaritan" in the process of retrieving a teenage boy, found floating face down, in the hotel pool. Another "guest" indicated he had seen the boy and other teenagers "horsing around and diving into the pool". In plain view was a sign indicating "No Diving" and "No Swimming Alone".

The Indiana Emergency Medical Services staff and judges designed this scenario for the finalists in the Indiana Annual Ambulance Competition. Four judges (with experience ranging from four to seventeen years) evaluated the competitors on their skills, innovation, and



The Jackson County EMS team of Valleri Curry and Chad Garner assess "victim" Jimmy Christopher's condition. They were awarded third place - Advanced EMT in the Annual Ambulance Competition.

medical treatment. Adding to the competitors' stress, were the watchful eyes of an audience sitting around the pool area!

These nine teams had scored highest, within their certification categories; three teams represented each group—Basic EMT, Advanced

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I N S I D E

2002 Emergency Medical Services Commission Awards

COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR AWARD

**WINNER: GARY NIETER,
WARSAW, INDIANA**

SPONSOR – TECHMED INDUSTRIES

In this year's winning photograph, paramedic Mike Oberg, from North Webster EMS, is seen intubating a young woman who was injured in a car-train motor vehicle accident.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER: DAVE PIERINI, DUBOIS COUNTY

SPONSOR – TECHMED INDUSTRIES

Members of Dubois County EMS, Fire, Police, and Military personnel have gathered together in a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Dubois County Courthouse. The vigil was to honor those who responded and remember those who died in the September 11th attacks.

AMBULANCE PROVIDER PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD

WINNER: WHITLEY COUNTY EMS

SPONSOR: WTH ENGINEERING, INC

This years winner was selected in recognition of superior efforts to inform the community about the emergency medical services it provides.

Whitley County EMS uses multiple means to inform its citizens and has a good working relationship with local newspapers. The department makes excellent use of brochures as an information tool. Topics include seatbelt safety, bike and helmet safety, when to call 911, and a history of the EMS organization. The department sends its ambulances to local schools for various events and participates in Career Day, Business Expo, and the Kids Fair. This organization also uses the following events as a means to educate the public about EMS – Customer

Appreciation Day at Wal Mart, the Shrine Horse Show, 4-H Fair, and local festivals.

AMBULANCE PROVIDER INJURY PREVENTION AWARD

**WINNER: HARRISON COUNTY HOSPITAL
EMS**

SPONSOR: INDIANA EMS FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE

The list of injury prevention projects conducted by this year's winner includes Ice Safety, Seatbelt Safety, EMS Awareness, Hazards of Drinking and Driving, Poison Control, Bicycle Safety, Water Safety, Halloween Safety, Holiday Safety, and Back to School Safety. This organization makes personal safety equipment available to the public through an infant car-seat program and a bicycle helmet giveaway program.

Harrison County uses its ambulances as billboards, sporting special decals promoting the use of life jackets, bicycle helmets, and seatbelts, and reminding citizens to take CPR training, to not drink and drive, and to not allow children to ride in the cargo area of pickup trucks.

This ambulance service provider is very proud of its commitment to injury prevention in the county it serves. The priority the organization places on injury prevention is best demonstrated by the fact that it has won this award the past seven years.

DAVID J. EDWARDS MEMORIAL INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER: CHERYL L. GARWICK-EDDY, PROMPT AMBULANCE SERVICE

SPONSOR: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OF INDIANA

Cheryl has been active in EMS education for many years. She is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Prehospital Trauma Life Support, and Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals, is a CPR Instructor and Instructor Trainer for the American

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“Competition” *from page 1*

EMT, and Paramedic. The final teams, along with eighteen others, had participated in the primary competition held the week before at Central State Hospital, Indianapolis. That scenario was determining if a farmer, who had been trimming trees, was suffering from a heart attack or from an adverse reaction to a bee sting.

During the pool side scenario, the teams



Joe Lipcovich and Anthony Floyd of Washington County EMS determine the condition of “the farmer”, Duane Ginder, during preliminary competition at Central State.

demonstrated their levels of experience, training and confidence while determining the situation and treating the victim. At half-hour intervals, one-by-one, the teams came through the Adams’ Mark Hotel foyer and arrived at the pool area. One responder, upon seeing the pool and the “victim” in the water, was heard to say, “One of us is gonna get wet!” She then quickly prepared herself to jump into the pool, by removing her radio, wallet, and her outer work shirt. Sorry guys, she was still properly attired. One thing she didn’t know - as many other responders were to find out - the sun was not yet high enough to shine in the pool and begin heating the water, so the water was still quite chilly from the night’s radiant cooling. Many of the emergency responders had some wide-eyed expressions while assisting the “victim” (Jimmy Christopher) and the Good Samaritan rescuer (Duane Ginder).

In some cases, both rescue crewmembers entered the water to place the backboard under the victim for patient stabilization. Some teams had the other



Tim Trimmer and Doug Reed from Whitley County EMS demonstrate the expertise that garnered them third place in the Paramedic division of the competition.

“guest” (John Zartman) enter the water to assist in the backboard procedure. Whichever way they chose to stabilize the “victim” and extricate him from the water for further treatment, all nine teams did a great job.

The “victim”, Jimmy, son of one of the judges, Jim Christopher, was quite waterlogged, cold, and tired after the final session was finished at 12:30 p.m. Each team was allowed 30 minutes in which to demonstrate their medical emergency skills. All teams used the same equipment (supplied for the scenario) (Even the two “hotel guests” at the pool were used when asked!). Christopher and the other three judges, Rod Bosley, Chuck Ford, and Hugh Garner, closely watched and evaluated the response teams treat the victim.

The Indiana EMS Staff appreciates the support, for this competition, of donated equipment, supplies, vehicles, and building, received from the following businesses and organizations: State Department of Administration; Goggan and Associates; Memorial Hospital (South Bend); Rural Metro Ambulance Service, St. Francis Hospital, United Hospital Service, Wayne Township Fire Department, and Wishard Ambulance Service - all of Indianapolis.

Congratulations to all the twenty-seven teams and to the finalists - they were all winners for coming to Indianapolis and participating in the grueling preliminaries and the final competition rounds. We hope to see more teams competing in next year’s Indiana Emergency Response Conference Governor’s Cup Ambulance Competition! ●

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Heart Association and is also an instructor for the American Safety and Health Institute. She is active in the community and has participated in the American Cancer Society's Night Out Relays for Cancer Survivors and also has been very active with the Boy Scouts for the past twenty years. Cheryl is described as having a passion for EMS not because it is her job, but because of her true heartfelt desire to help others.

**OTIS R. BOWEN, M.D.
HEROIC RESCUE AWARD
WINNER: ROBERTA HOUSER
AND JASON MILLER, CASS COUNTY EMS**

***SPONSOR: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OF
INDIANA***

The Otis R. Bowen Heroic Rescue Award is given in recognition of an event that demonstrates a degree of courage and bravery while at the same time showing an understanding of the seriousness of the situation and the risks involved.

On February 28, 2002, while returning from another call, an ambulance crew from Cass County EMS heard a radio report of a house fire. Since this EMS department performs standby duty for the fire department, the crew drove to the scene. They arrived before the fire department. Since they had responded to the house on EMS runs many times, the crew knew that the residents of the house were two elderly men who were on oxygen therapy and one was wheelchair bound.

Houser and Miller could see smoke coming from the house but the living area in the front of the house was clear of smoke. The crew decided to make entry and assist the brothers. When they found them, the men refused to leave the house until they found their dog. The smoke got worse so the crew had to remove the men from the house against their will.

When the fire department arrived on scene, a firefighter entered the house and located the unresponsive dog. With some oxygen and stimulation, the dog responded.

The men refused treatment at the local hospital but credited the crew with saving their lives. Both are doing well in their new residence along with their dog.

**DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: JERRY WALLS,
THREE RIVERS AMBULANCE AUTHORITY/
AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE, FORT
WAYNE**

***SPONSOR: Parkview Samaritan Hospital, Fort
Wayne***

This year's Dispatcher of the Year has been involved in EMS for 11 years. Walls has worked as a System Status Manager for several years and holds many certifications above and beyond those required for a dispatcher in the local system.

He has been instrumental in training many competent dispatchers for his department, and is now involved in assisting his department in meeting the requirements to become a certified dispatch center.

Walls is known as a very technically and tactfully proficient dispatcher, and is considered by his co-workers to be a beacon on the other end of the radio giving the needed direction and guidance for all to follow.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS ARE GIVEN IN RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE AND BEYOND NORMAL DAY TO DAY EXPERIENCES. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EMS INDUSTRY THROUGH DEDICATION, SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP AND TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PROMOTION OF EMS AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES ARE CONSIDERED IN THE SELECTION OF THE RECIPIENTS.

**EMT OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: PETE MARTIN, RAMSEY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

***SPONSOR: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OF
INDIANA***

This year's winner became certified as an EMT in 1975. Martin serves a rural community as a member of the local volunteer fire department ambulance service. He is a charter member of the department having joined it 41 years ago. He helped to establish EMS in his community and has mentored the men

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Left to Right: Tornado damage in Marion county, Posey county, and at the Posey county highway garage, from the September 20, 2002 outbreak. Mobile homes were some of the most severely impacted structures.

Hoosiers will not soon forget September 20, 2002. One of the strongest tornado outbreaks in over a decade hit the state that day.

It started in Posey County at 10:50 am and ended in Blackford County at 3:04 pm. During those few hours the lives of thousands were changed forever.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports five twisters from the storm. An F-3 tornado on the Fujita Scale (winds of 158-206 mph) was reported in Morgan County and on the Marion/Johnson County line. Its path, from Ellettsville to Hartford City, was nearly 112 miles, the second longest in state history.

The longest was 121 miles by one of 11 twisters in the 1965 Palm Sunday outbreak.

Miraculously no one was killed. Part of the reason could be the time of day when many are at work or school and part could be the advanced warnings by the NWS of up to 39 minutes.

As a result of the damage, Governor Frank O'Bannon declared a state of emergency on September 21st. With technical assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a formal request for expedited federal assistance was made on the 25th. President George W. Bush granted it the next day.

The declaration immediately provided individual assistance for residents of Delaware, Hancock, Johnson, Knox, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Posey and Rush as well as the contiguous counties of Bartholomew, Blackford, Brown, Daviess, Decatur, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hendricks, Henry, Jay, Lawrence, Owen, Pike, Randolph, Shelby, Sullivan, Tipton and Vanderburgh.

Public assistance includes:

- Low-interest disaster loans to cover uninsured

property losses. Loans may be for repair or replacement of homes, automobiles, clothing or other damaged personal property. Loans also were available to businesses for property loss and economic injury.

- Disaster housing was available for some persons whose residences were damaged or destroyed. This program also includes funding for emergency repairs to damaged homes.

- Disaster grants to disaster victims who are unable to repay a loan. The grants are for serious disaster-related needs and necessary expenses not covered by other programs. These may include replacement of clothing, automobiles or medical expenses.

- Other disaster aid programs include crisis counseling, disaster-related unemployment assistance, legal aid and assistance with income tax, Social Security and Veteran's benefits.

After state/federal damage assessment teams reported their findings, public assistance was also approved for Johnson, Knox, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan and Posey counties. It provided 75 per cent federal funding to help local governments offset the costs of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repair or replacement of damaged public facilities such as roads, buildings and utilities.

At publication 1,778 persons had applied with the following approved:

Disaster Housing	\$397,922
Individual and Family Grants	\$537,718
SBA Loans	\$5,060,000
Public assistance was estimated at \$8.4 million.	

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and women who volunteer for the department.

Martin was a driving force in bringing the 911 call system, and later enhanced 911, to Harrison County.

His coworkers consider him an inspiration and believe his life in EMS has been a true gift to the community. Even at the age of 75 he continues to hone his skills through regular attendance at in-service training programs and the State Emergency Response Conference.

**ADVANCED EMT OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: PATRICIA STRICKLAND,
HARRISON COUNTY HOSPITAL EMS
SPONSOR: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS OF
INDIANA**

The Advanced EMT of the Year is a CPR Instructor, is certified in neonatal Advanced Life Support, and Basic Trauma Life Support. After recognizing the effects of domestic abuse on patients, Strickland completed training as a women's advocate and as a domestic abuse counselor so that she could better serve her patients. Public education on injury prevention is very important to our winner. She developed and implemented a drinking and driving prevention program that has been taught to over 1,000 youth in the local school. She is also active as a Critical Stress Debriefing officer.

**THE FRANK D. GILBERT, JR. MEMORIAL
PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: LINDA POLLARD, WISHARD
AMBULANCE SERVICE
SPONSOR: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS
OF INDIANA**

The Paramedic of the Year Award was presented posthumously to Linda Pollard. Linda was known throughout her 27-year career at Wishard Ambulance Service for her passion for EMS and her compassion for her patients. As a paramedic preceptor she contributed to the education of many new paramedics teaching them the tricks of the trade, counseling them through tough times, and giving them the benefit of her wisdom. She proved many times that showing compassion is not a sign of weakness but a sign of

strength. Linda Pollard died in an accident on June 8, 2002.

EMS Provider awards are given in recognition of providers which provide for and promote professional growth opportunities for their employees in addition to promoting EMS awareness throughout their communities. These organizations serve the community through volunteer efforts, participate in disaster planning, and work in harmony with the medical community.

**BLS NON-TRANSPORT PROVIDER OF THE
YEAR AWARD
WINNER: GRISSOM AIR FORCE BASE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
SPONSOR: RURAL METRO**

This organization requires all of its members to be certified, at a minimum, as First Responders and Hazardous Materials Technicians. A crew of three, an officer and 2 firefighters, always staffs its BLS Non-Transport vehicle. The department is actively involved in the community by sponsoring CPR classes, EMT and Advanced EMT training programs. It also participates in safe prom programs at local schools.

The Grissom Air Force Base Fire Department not only serves its defined territory but also has an agreement to respond to all medical emergencies and rescue calls in the southern half of its county. The BLS Non-Transport Provider of the Year is an active participant in county disaster exercises and maintains excellent relations with the local hospital that provides its medical direction.

**BLS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER: SOUTHWESTERN EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICE, JASONVILLE
SPONSOR: WHEELED COACH**

This provider maintains an active in-service program for its employees as well as an aggressive program to educate the public about emergency medical services. It works with nursing facilities to

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keep them abreast of changes in EMS skills and capabilities, participates in local health fairs and works with scouts and explorer groups. It conducts programs at local schools to educate students about EMTs and to encourage consideration of medical careers. It works with local law enforcement agencies to present a prom night accident scenario.

Southwestern Emergency Medical teaches first aid at local parenting classes and works with local police and fire services to coordinate educational programs. It has sponsored a seminar on bio-terrorism and anthrax, and is actively involved in educating local businesses on methamphetamine awareness.

Personnel from this small rural private ambulance service pitch in to assist in the emergency department after they deliver patients to the hospital. The service is also active in disaster planning and has been able to offer mutual aid to services in neighboring counties when the need arose.

**ADVANCED EMT PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
AWARD****WINNER: WASHINGTON COUNTY
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EMS, SALEM*****SPONSOR: WHEELED COACH***

The Advanced EMT Provider of the Year offers its employees continuous training and education. Courses include Basic EMT, Advanced EMT, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, hazardous materials, domestic violence awareness, Bio-terrorism Tactical Awareness for EMS, and Neonatal Resuscitation Program. It serves its community by participating in mock accident programs at local schools, Donkey Basketball fundraisers for the Crusade for Children, providing standby service at the county fair, and doing blood pressure screenings at local events.

Washington County Memorial Hospital EMS is actively involved in the development of its county's disaster plans and has developed a Haz-Mat decontamination team. Its stated goal is to redefine EMS to its community through public education, public perception, and the on-going education of its EMTs.

**PARAMEDIC PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
AWARD:****WINNER: WISHARD AMBULANCE SERVICE,
INDIANAPOLIS*****SPONSOR: DYNA-LINC, INC.***

The first ambulances used by the Paramedic Provider of the Year were specially designed horse drawn carriages staffed by physicians, nurses, and medical students. From its humble beginnings 115 years ago it has grown to a fleet of 27 ambulances and 5 non-transport units responding to over 65,000 emergencies per year. It participates in a Medical Fellowship Program that takes emergency medicine physicians who have completed their training and educates them to all aspects of EMS and trains them to be EMS Medical Directors. Wishard participates in over 300 special events each year and maintains a separate fleet of vehicles including bicycles and golf carts.

It maintains a Tactical EMS program and provides SWAT Medics to the city and county police departments. It plays a key role in disaster and terrorism preparedness and serves as a member of the Mayor's Taskforce on Bio-Terrorism.

**LARRY W. MYERS MEMORIAL AWARD FOR
PROFESSIONALISM AND MENTAL
ATTITUDE****WINNERS: DERRELL ROBINSON
LARRY WASHINGTON
GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT*****SPONSOR: INDIANA AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION***

During the ceremonies, John Karolzak, President of the Indiana Ambulance Association, described this award in honor of Myers who lost his life during an emergency medical run. Myers owned the Myers Ambulance Service in Greenwood, Indiana.

The award is given to the emergency medical responders who demonstrate the greatest professionalism and mental attitude during the preliminary ambulance competition held prior to the conference. ●

2002 Governor's Cup Ambulance Service Provider Competition Results

**FIRST PLACE TROPHIES ARE SPONSORED
BY THE INDIANA AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION**

BASIC EMT

First Place: From Town of Shererville EMS

GEORGE MICHELS

AARON ANDERSON

Second Place: From Whitley County EMS

TAMMY SLATER

HEATHER STAUFFER

Third Place: From Aboite Township Fire Department

GALE STELZER II

JEFFERY VANDERWEELE

ADVANCED EMT

First Place: From Southwest Medical Service

DENISE ARNOLD

SARAH ELROD



During the preliminary competition, paramedics R. D. Goodpaster and Michael Medlock from Jackson County EMS, assess the condition of "Farmer Ginder".

ADVANCED EMT (Cont'd)

Second Place: From Wells County EMS

DIOSDADO HERNANDEZ

BRETT STEFFEN

Third Place: From Jackson County EMS

VALLERI CURRY

CHAD GARNER

PARAMEDIC

First Place: From Elkhart Fire Department

GRANT ROBERTS

VITO PALUMBO

Second Place: From Wells County EMS

NATHAN MILLS

ANDREW STIMPSON

Third Place: From Whitley County EMS

TIM TRIMMER

DOUG REED

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